



Lots to look forward to

It would be traditional at this time of year to look back at the achievements of the year just ending, and this newsletter is certainly a celebration of just that. What a year this has been, I have been proud of the way the school has bounced back to normal post-Covid and delighted to have witnessed the resumption of school trips, residential, fixtures, performances and more as the school has quickly returned to something approaching normal.

What we accomplished last year may have been great, but no one can rest on past accomplishments and there's no denying that the new school year will be here soon, and I'm so excited for this, the first year 'proper' post Covid as we have such a lot planned for our students to enjoy.

The summer itself will be a busy one as we have a lot of building projects and refurbishments scheduled across the school, including the new playground and the completion of the new labs at St Paul's, the first stage of development of the STEM centre on Glisson Road and more refurbishments at Bateman Street.

This summer will also see two other notable firsts, our partnership Summer Schools with Dukes' SBC and Active Education, at the Senior and Prep schools. Here, SW students will join other children from Cambridge and beyond, in a whole host of practical activities (Prep) and academic courses in business, medicine, natural sciences and engineering (Seniors).

There will be continued improvements and development to our curriculum as well, the enrichment programme will continue after its successful roll-out this year and the number of opportunities will be broadened across the school. Our Prep children will benefit further from an expanded after-school clubs programme. For the first time, a programme of academic scholarships will be offered, and our most able students will benefit from the Thriving Minds programme, which will include Sancton Wood hosting the first Dukes' Young Renaissance Scholars symposium here in Cambridge. Seniors will have another first, a Careers Day in the Michaelmas term during which they can choose from a menu of visiting speakers representing a whole host of different jobs, all anchored by a keynote session from the newest members of the Dukes' team, Investin.

Some things won't change though and we will continue to work with students and families to do all we can to meet their social, emotional and academic needs; valuing them as individuals and nurturing them so they can achieve academic excellence.

With that said, I encourage you to allow this summer vacation to be what it is intended to be. I encourage you to focus on your family and enjoy it together. I encourage you to take time to rest, relax, enjoy nature and experience life to the fullest.

See you in September, Richard.

Enrichment

At the school, once a week on a Wednesday afternoon, students have time set aside for the enrichment programme. This is a programme where you get to choose a new activity to try, with a wide range of options, from STEM based activities like rocketry and coding to more arts and humanities-based activities, like mural design and VR time travel which allows you to see scenes from the past with a headset. This wide range of options ensures there is an activity available that excites and interests every student, no matter the subjects they are interested in. You get to pick a new activity every half term (so the classes usually last for around 6 weeks) which gives you the opportunity to try 6 new activities every year.

I chose a broad range of activities this year, to try to get a real sense of all the options the programme had to offer. I tried things from creating murals in Mural Design to learning the art of performance makeup in Stage Makeup to playing in a band for the first time in School of Rock. These experiences allowed me to really broaden my interest in arts-based subjects and get to try new areas of these subjects that I hadn't had the opportunity to explore before, and even inspiring me to take my newfound interest further. In the enrichment programme, you get put with other year groups, and this allowed me to be able to make new friends in other years who I wouldn't ordinarily talk to.

I also did some enrichment activities relating heavily to current events, like Politics and Topical Talk. These classes allowed me to practice my public speaking skills in debates and educate myself on issues I normally wouldn't have time to research. I also gained a better understanding of ways to go about making an impact and changing the world for the better. I also know that my friends, who likewise participated in a wide range of activities, feel they all learned valuable skills from the enrichment programme, and had a good experience with it.

The enrichment programme is also a break from lessons, giving students time to try and learn new things without the added pressure of tests and grades. This is a healthy and enjoyable learning style and I feel that this style of learning has benefited many students and their school experience.

As I am about to start Y11, my time in the enrichment programme is almost over as the programme only goes up to Y10 due to our focus on GCSEs. I feel that, although I only had a year, it has benefited me and my school experience in that short time. I have learnt many valuable skills and developed new interests in things I might not have had the chance to try if I hadn't done enrichment. I feel happy for the younger years who get this experience next year and in years after that.

Flora, Y10



Be Brilliant Y11

Wow, what a whirlwind few weeks our year group have had. From finishing exams to a leavers service and a prom, it has been eventful to say the least but also a tad bittersweet. Whilst it is sad to be leaving Sancton Wood I'm sure I speak for all of Y11 when I say I'm enthusiastic about joining sixth form and all the opportunities that will come with that once September rolls along!

We started our end of year celebrations with the Year 11 Leavers Service. The assembly displayed the talents of our peers with captivating performances from Lottie, Bea, Skye, Gianluca and Milo. The duet of "What Is This Feeling?" (Wicked) by Lottie and Bea featuring a background photo montage of everyone in our year was a standout. Inspiring and heartfelt speeches were also given by Mr Settle and Mrs King, both significant role models for our year group. Mrs King left us with a nostalgic quote from Winnie The Pooh, "I always get to where I'm going by walking away from where I've been." which I think perfectly encapsulates all of Year 11's next steps - we don't know what to expect but we just have to keep going.

We then rounded off our celebrations with an extravagant prom held in the Parkers Tavern Hotel. We got to meet each other's parents and reminisce with all our teachers and friends, we then sat down for a 3-course meal in the ball room and played lots and lots of games and quizzes. We learnt some unexpected facts about teachers in two truths and a lie and took about half an hour trying to figure out how Mr Settle looked so different in his baby picture compared to now. It was a fabulous night and a wonderful way to conclude Year 11.

As I look back on my time at Sancton Wood, I'm filled with gratitude and appreciation. This is all down to the amazing lifelong friendships I've made and the incredible teachers that have guided me. I'll always look back on my 4 years at Sancton Wood as formative, fun and educational and I think that is all you can ask for from school. And I wish all of my peers the best of luck as we all move forward into our future endeavours.

Ted, Y11

Beyond the Classroom

Mr Settle recently wrote in his newsletter about the importance of school trips. He said that they contribute to a much wider picture of school life and that for many of us, school trips are one of our fondest school memories.

He noted that they increase confidence and for some students is their first real taste of independence. Experiencing this independence in a safe and positive environment boosts self-confidence and is essential for personal and social development, allowing new friendships to bloom and new challenges to be faced.

School trips are a lovely way to safely take children out of their comfort zone and encourage them to develop an appetite for trying new things. They enable our pupils to enjoy experiences that cannot be replicated in the classroom environment and contribute to a wider world perspective. With each one, children venture into undiscovered territory and as their life experience grows, so does their perspective on the world we live in.

This page is dedicated to some of the school trips that have taken place this term.

A trip to the Botanical Gardens



On 10th June, Y5 went to the Botanical Gardens for a Science and French trip. They went with Mrs Wells, Mrs Maguire and Madame Truche-Gordon.

Recently Y5 have been learning how to say different parts of the flower in French, so we labelled and drew a part of a flower in English, French and Turkish. Next we looked at all of the cool flowers and learned some of the Latin names.

Madame Truche-Gordon's group went up to the Botanical Gardens view point. It was very hot in the green houses and there were loads of cool cacti that were prickly as a porcupine.

We also did a nature trail and we saw the biggest tree in the park! I think that the trip was awesome.

Scout, Y5



Theatre trip to London

On Tuesday 21st June, Y3, 4, 5 and 6 went on a theatre trip to the Unicorn Theatre, a modern theatre located on Tooley Street. This was a long trip to London to watch a production named ‘Marvin’s Marvellous Binoculars.’ We had lunch overlooking Tower Bridge.

We watched a play about a young boy who goes on an adventure to retrieve Nanny’s binoculars from the evil park warden. It was a fun-filled production that everyone heartily enjoyed.

The children had a wonderful day out and the adults were entertained by the excursion too. “This show was funny and I loved it,” said one Y6 pupil.

Many thanks to Mrs Jackson for organising the outing.

Imogen and Nora, Y6

Grafham Water Fun



Grafham Water is amazing! There's sailing, biking, climbing, paddle boarding, raft building, high ropes, Jacob's Ladder and amazing food.

Sailing was my absolute favourite; with your friend, one steers and one controls the sail. We all kept pushing, even when we were tired. Raft building is all about team work. We used barrells

poles and string. We used an amazing method, and I never thought it would work but it did!

Paddle boarding was very funny. With a friend, we each stood on one side of the board and tried to shake the other off. At the end, we all got on a huge paddle board and jumped in.

My group made it round the whole lake, mountain biking. We got really tired but took breaks inbetween with yummy snacks. It was absolutely beautiful when we were cycling.

The sunset was just amazing, it was so calming. Every night we got a hot chocolate and I could sleep so well.

There's so much to do at Grafham Water and it was my favourite trip ever. I got a bit homesick at the end but it didn't stop me and all my friends having lots and lots of fun.

Ava, Y5

Year 7 Residential



Y7 enjoyed a two night stay at Kingswood’s Overstrand Hall, participating in a range of mentally and physically challenging activities. They gave everything a go (even if it was scary at first) and tried again when something was difficult.

The pupils’ behaviour was commendable. They were well-behaved throughout the centre, worked brilliantly in their houses, and supported each other during the activities. They were all an asset to the school.

Geography Field Trip

On the 22nd of June, the Y10 GCSE Geography students got on a coach to head to Flatford Mill in rural Suffolk. When we arrived, we had a lovely tour around the picturesque National Trust site and had a picnic next to the charming medieval buildings and the River Stour.

Once we’d settled in, we made our way to the classroom with our guide, Charlie, who started talking us through river theories. Soon after, we set off to three different sites of the River Brett and tested the theories we discussed. Do rivers get wider, deeper and faster as they go downstream? Using various methods to measure these variables, we practically learnt how to answer the measuring technique questions in our GCSE paper four. Now that we’ve actually done it, the methods will be so much easier to remember for our exam; the cows and their manure made it particularly memorable.

We returned from our afternoon session to hot showers and a tasty dinner and spent the last of the day exploring the fields and playing games in the evening summer air. The following morning, the good weather continued as we learnt how to present the data we’d collected.

In the afternoon, we headed to the coast at Walton-on-the-Naze to explore how beach profiles, sediment cover and infiltration rates change when coast defences are put up. Later, we tested the local ice cream and returned to our residence, where we spent the evening further enjoying our surroundings.

After an eventful night, we prepared for our final lesson where we summarised what we’d learnt and how to present the data collected. We arrived back at school Friday afternoon, tired, but very happy with our highly successful school trip. Overall, the trip was extremely useful for learning the contents of paper 4 and it also provided a perfect socialising opportunity, which was much needed after a prolonged break.

Sarah, Y10



Jubilee Joy

On Monday 6th June, at St Paul's Road, the day after the Jubilee weekend, Sancton Wood Prep School celebrated the Queen's Jubilee. We had lots of activities. We ate scones, sandwiches and (didn't) drink some tea. Everyone had fun and there was lots of laughter. We all stood up and sang the National Anthem to celebrate the Queens's Jubilee at the start. We were given our very own British flag, which we held whilst singing.

The first activity we did was accessorising our own crowns. Everyone had so much amusement customizing and drawing their own ideas! We had heaps of equipment to add to our crowns. The second activity we did was we drew out our ideas of what we imagined we would look like as a queen. All these opportunities we had were incredibly fun and we enjoyed them thoroughly. We also did a star word search, which made us think; the star word search had lots of Jubilee related words on it.



For the food we were given lots of different sandwiches. We got to choose from cheese, jam, cucumber and ham. We had scones with jam, strawberries and plain ones as well as that. We had dessert and the food was exceptionally good. There were also vegan options as well as gluten-free options. All the teachers helped by serving sandwiches, desserts and more.

Lola and Edie Year 6

Terrific Talent



Sancton Wood's Got Talent! It was fantastic, supreme and amazing. Lots of awesome talents were performed in the playground. All three of the Y5 winners deserved to win. Everybody just knew that Clare was a winner. As soon as she played her first note, we knew that the 'Maguire Cup' (named after Ms Maguire) would be in her hands. She was excellent.

In second place was Enea doing Taekwondo and in joint third place was Harry with the violin and jokes and Zarvia and Cleo with their own original super cool song and dance. How cool! Every contestant who took part in the talent show got a nice certificate. Others showcased a cup song, jokes, piano, singing, ballet, dance and violin. It was truly fantastic!!

Bea, Y5

The 'Book Look'



On Wednesday 8th June, parents came to Sancton Wood to view their children's workbooks and to have tea.

The parents arrived at 2:30pm and stayed until the end of school. After the Book Look itself, the parents and children went to the hall for tea and other treats, such as millionaire's shortbread, brownies, rocky road, and lemon drizzle cake. Many thanks to Holroyd Howe for providing these delights.

During the Book Look, the parents scrutinized the children's workbooks with them and reviewed them, looking through the history of this school year. There were many highlights and much to be proud of and much to share.

Most children had family to visit, and it was outstanding to have so many parents in school again. After the Book Look and tea, the remaining children went to play in the playground, which was complete mayhem and a lot of fun.

Roger and Gabriel, Y6



The Big Toddle

Our Nursery raised lots of money for Barnardos once again taking part in The Big Toddle - £350. Lots of little feet came together to make a big difference with a sponsored walk. They were as brave as lions on this roar-some Safari-themed adventure.



Forest Fun

Reception class focused on two of the key principles of Forest School this half term; the 'nature principle' where children are encouraged to connect with nature and grow a wealth of understanding about living things and the 'community principle' where we learn together and share our knowledge with others.

In our first session, I told the children a story about a tree that had been planted many years ago in the forest school and who looked out for us whilst we were in there. The tree is known as the 'grandmother tree' and the children enjoyed saying hello, goodbye and telling it jokes.

We played a 'go out and find' game, exploring the area with a focus in mind to find things that represented word cards they were given. We each chose a nature name for ourselves and talked about what we might find in nature. I set up a crafty activity on some tarp with clay where children could make their own nature pots. The children were also introduced to the 'talking stick' which encourages them to speak and listen to each other.

We have talked and learnt about using real tools safely and appropriately. We have a bright orange tarp for such activities which mean 'stop and walk zone' so we can be safe. I introduced a bow saw and hand drill to the children so they could make their own nature necklaces. This is a great way to introduce tools safely and purposefully.

Nic Henson

The GCSE performing arts showcase: proving that the show does, in fact, go on



On Tuesday 21st June 2022, Y10 Drama and Music GCSE students (including myself) took to the stage for a showcase of the performances they have been working on this year. The showcase, which lasted around 2 hours, was separated into two acts; Act 1 included Drama performances from plays such as Julius Caesar (Shakespeare) and The Accidental Death of an Anarchist (Dario Fo) and music performances of I Feel Good (Brown) and Lagrima, Preludio (Tarrega). Act 2 featured extracts from The Crucible (Arthur Miller) and One for The Road (Harold Pinter). Act 2 also featured a performance of Waltz, op 69 no.2 by Chopin and to close the show, Cramp your style by Hole. All the performances were engaging and seemed to receive a (hopefully) genuinely enthusiastic round of applause from the audience, which was comprised of parents and friends of the performers.

Whilst the showcase was a great opportunity for everyone to show how much hard work we have put into our performances this year, it also held a greater significance. The past 2 years have been heavily disrupted by COVID and this has impacted everyone, especially those in performing arts. For over 2 years now, people have not been able to attend concerts or performances at the theatre or cinema, and with restrictions now finally lifted, this showcase would have been the first event like this that many people have been able to attend (or participate in) for a long time. From someone performing in the showcase, it was so great to be able to perform in front of a live audience again, as that atmosphere was just not achievable during COVID times. It really felt like a return to normal, and it is amazing that the school and the whole performing arts industry can hold such events once again.

I had a great time doing the showcase and I can tell that everyone else who participated (and watched) did as well. As us Y10s (soon to be 11s) are leaving the school in less than a year now, it is important to have these experiences to show people our talent and hard work, and to be proud of it. Of course, none of this would have been possible without our amazing teachers Mrs Robinson and Mr Morris who took a lot of time and effort to organise this production for us, and the stage and lighting crew who had a part in ensuring every performance was the best it could be. Everyone did a great job, and I am glad that, post-covid, the school will be able to put on many similar productions in the future to ensure that the future GCSE students and their families get to have this same experience.

Flora, Y10

Movin' on Up

We've been preparing for transitions across the school. The Nursery welcomed new families with an afternoon tea and existing families had the opportunity to get to know each other better at their planting party, planting lots of different seeds together around the garden. Tigers have been getting ready for big school by taking part in sports day, playtime and assembly.

Y6 has enjoyed several visits to the Senior School during the year, to prepare for a smooth transition in September. This term, they were invited to see the technical aspects of theatre in the Drama Studio (along with Y5), following a term exploring non-acting roles in theatre. In the penultimate week, Y6 were entertained to an afternoon tea with Mrs King. Senior prefects and Y9 students served the tea and chatted with the students.

As usual, Holroyd Howe provided a delicious array of cakes for this event, which were much appreciated, especially as it was at least two hours since lunch. Mrs King chatted with the class and it was a great opportunity for her to get to know them and vice versa. Following this, they were then even better prepared for the excitement of Move Up Day and a taste of life in Year 7.

Skipping into Summer

On Monday 13th of June, Mr Wilson did a skipping day for the whole school. We learned how to do different skills, including; the double bounce, left foot, right foot and feet together, feet apart. We had an assembly to show off the skills that we learned. The older children showed how to cross skip and do the pretzel. It was great fun.

Sid, Y3

ISA East Senior Athletics

We had the privilege of hosting the East Regional ISA Senior Athletics event this year. We took this opportunity to send as many of our senior students as possible to represent the school. It was a very impressive day for all our young athletes with competition of a high standard in all areas. We started the day with medals in every hurdle race we entered.

After this the medals kept on coming throughout the day. We medalled in every age group in both boys and girls with over 20 medals in total. We had 2 athletes win Gold in the shot put event: Masha in Y7 and Frans in Y9. Winning their event meant they were invited to represent East Anglia at the ISA National competition in Manchester.



ISA National Tennis Championships



On the 11th May Mr Kennedy and Mrs Grindrod had the opportunity to take a group of students to the ISA National Tennis Championships at Rugby School. The students represented the school with fantastic effort in both singles and doubles matches.

In the singles tournament the students battled fantastically against the elements as the rain and the wind made conditions very difficult. All the students could be proud of their efforts with Guy, Jackson, Ollie, Sarah, Anna and Laia making it through to the Cup knockout stages. There were also impressive efforts from Harry. D, Leo. S, Tom. C, Siavash, Taisia and Lottie who progressed to the knockout stages of the plate. The standout result from the Singles tournament was from Laia Y7 who made it to the final. In the end only she only narrowly lost out in what was an amazing game of tennis, which saw the girls display a wide range of groundstrokes. A much-deserved silver medal for Laia.

After a brief lunch break, it was time for the students to play in the Doubles tournament and much to everyone's delight the sun finally made an appearance. The students were once again a credit to the school and played some fantastic doubles matches. To finish the day, there were more medals as Ollie and Guy. S won a bronze medal in the Senior Double's tournament. Harry. D and Leo. S got the better of Siavash and Tom. C in an all Sancton Wood final to secure themselves a bronze medal as well. We were very proud of all the students' efforts throughout the day in representing the school and playing a very high standard of tennis.

Junior ISA East Regional Athletics

On 26th May we attended the Junior ISA Athletics in which the Y4, Y5 and Y6 boys and girls competed in track and field events.

The day started off with relay in which the Y4 boys and girls both made it through to the final with fantastic running technique and change overs throughout the race. The Y6 girls made it through to the final with an excellent finish by Phoebe.

ISA National Athletics

Masha and Frans were joined by Isla in Y8 who was successful in reaching the ISA National team in the hurdle event. The three athletes travelled up to Manchester Regional Arena to compete as part of the East Anglia team.

Frans competed first and had three excellent throws with his 2nd throw putting him into 4th place Nationally. Masha was up straight after, she had thought hard about her tactics and they paid off as she also finished 4th at this National standard. Our track athlete Isla was last to compete in a very tough event. She had a great start and cleared every hurdle throughout the race. She finished 6th in her race which is a very respectable position in such a prestigious event.

All 3 of our national athletes attended the after-school athletics club where they were able to practice and have specific coaching for their event, well done for all your hard work over the term.

Netball Tour

Back in March, almost 30 girls from Y7-10 departed from Sancton Wood and headed to Liddington for our Netball Tour. The weekend was a mix of fun activities, socialising with friends and, most importantly, Netball games. The Y9 and 10 team started the weekend with their morning tournament with some very challenging sides. The girls won their first game which gave them the confidence boost that they needed to power through the rest of the tournament.

In the afternoon, it was time for the Y7 and 8s to take to the courts. They were in a much larger tournament but showed lots of grit and determination throughout. One thing that the girls developed massively with was the understanding of the rules and how the umpires address them. There were a variety of teams involved in the games and so there was a mix of wins, losses and draws.

When the girls were not in the tournaments, they were able to be involved in a wide range of thrilling activities.

Sunday saw the final tournament games, which produced the semi-final and final teams. The Y7 and 8 teams worked tirelessly to gain a place, but both teams just fell short. The Y9 and 10 team managed to get into the semi-finals. They came against a team that they had beaten previously in the tournament. As the game progressed, it was clear that this game was going to finish a lot closer than the last time they met. Some ferocious battles led to SWS clinching the lead in the final seconds. We were in the finals!!

The final game was going to be the toughest of them all. This team had many girls that were skilled in their position. Unfortunately, we were unable to keep up with their lead. The girls were absolutely overcome to find that they had come second in such a tough competition.

To all the girls that came on tour, you were all amazing. Mrs Grindrod, Miss Alder and Mrs Rusted are so proud of you for your performance and progression during the weekend. We look forward to seeing you next year at Netball Club to start this again!

Rugby Tour 2022/ 2023

Boys in Y7, 8, 9 10 and 11 are invited to join the Rugby team to participate in a sports tour in the Michaelmas term of 2022 or the Lent term, 2023.

During the weekend the students will have the opportunity to play a game against a local team, as well as taking part in a coaching session with a former rugby player. Finally, students will get the opportunity to watch a professional rugby game in the local area.

The weekend includes:

- All meals from Friday evening on arrival (packed lunch provided by school) to Sunday afternoon
- Travel to and from school
- All activities
- Team kit for the tour

Boys will be asked to show a commitment to the team and train regularly in their game's lessons from September.

We have space for approximately 30 pupils, on a first come, first served basis. If the demand is great this could be extended depending on space. Please express your interest by emailing liam.kennedy@sanctonwood.co.uk.

Sports Day

It's one of our favourite times of the year. Congratulations to all the students that took part in Sancton Wood Sports Day 2022. It was a fantastic couple of days and it was great to see everyone putting so much effort into each of the events.

Everyone throughout the school got stuck in and ran, jumped and threw their way to win housepoints for their houses. At the time of going to press the Prep Sports Day was in full swing. It was wonderful to see so many parents showing their support. A big thank you to the PE team for putting on such a great event.



The winners at the Senior School Sports Day are as follows:

- Javelin: Will F-D, Darcy, Harry D, Larissa, Oscar and Lilian
Shot Put: Archie, Kherlen, Tom J, Arabella M, David K, Anna, Guy S and Maya
Discus: Vincenzo, Darcy, Harry D, Isla, David K, Parmida, Joseph and Ella
Long Jump: Archie, Kherlen, Jake, Abby, Alex W, Elizabeth, Harry BC and Ella
High Jump: Archie, Kherlen, Jake, Cara, Oscar, Shadi, Lukas and Ella
Hurdles: Archie, Claudia, Franck, Phoebe, Declan, Anna, Guy S and Xanthe
100m: Zane, Kherlen, Franck, Nina, Alex T, Naomi, Lukas, Malva and Catalina
200m: Ethan, Kherlen, Harry D, Cara, Frans, Naomi, Harry B-C, Malva and Catalina
400m: Zane, Masha, Harry D, Isla, David B, Anna, Jackson and Rachel
800/1500m: Will F-D, Masha, Harry D, Alicia, Ian, Shadi, Max W and Ella

s	r	e	b	y	i	q	a	h	j	Summer
w	d	c	e	x	f	s	g	r	p	Holiday
a	d	v	e	n	t	u	r	e	k	Beach
h	v	d	f	g	o	m	n	a	m	Park
o	t	u	s	h	i	m	z	d	l	Read
l	s	a	t	u	b	e	a	c	h	Cycle
i	r	q	b	p	a	r	k	y	v	Swim
d	y	c	x	i	w	j	k	c	l	Travel
a	z	p	t	r	a	v	e	l	m	Explore
y	o	e	x	p	l	o	r	e	n	Adventure